

"Perhaps the greatest power of such intellectual exchange is to convert nations into peoples and to translate ideologies into human aspirations"
-- J. William Fulbright

From the Director

Dear Fulbrighters and Fulbright friends,
Welcome to the first edition of the Chào Fulbright 2018!

Fulbright Vietnam kicked off 2018 with a busy January by welcoming the new U.S. scholars who arrived to start their Fulbright journey in Vietnam followed by the Mid-year Meeting for English Teaching Assistant (ETA) host institutions. In January, we also launched the Vietnamese Student Program AY2019 with a number of information sessions that have been conducted throughout Vietnam.

In this issue, we will meet Fulbrighters who are currently studying in the U.S. and an alumnus of the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching for Americans to hear about their experiences in the two countries as Fulbrighters.

Please also join us to congratulate our former English Teaching Assistant on receiving the 2018 Alumni Achievement Awards, and a Vietnamese alumnus on his new book.

Around the region, Fulbright East Asia Pacific organized a Regional Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia for representatives from U.S. missions and Fulbright Commissions, and the Regional Enrichment Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for U.S. scholars and students.

As always, we would like to welcome your feedback, comments as well as stories, articles, photos so that we can include them in future issues and make the newsletters better.

Enjoy your reading!

The Fulbright Vietnam Team

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Fulbright East Asia Pacific (EAP) Regional Meeting

Fulbright EAP organized a Regional Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on March 5-9, 2018. The meeting gathered the attendance of more than 50 representatives from 22 U.S. missions, the U.S. Mission to ASEAN, Fulbright Commissions throughout the EAP region, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – Department of State (ECA), and cooperating agencies. Ms. Molly Stephenson, Counselor for Public Affairs and Ms. Vu Quynh Nga, Director – Fulbright Vietnam attended the meeting.

The 5-day meeting was a chance to share invaluable knowledge, best practices, lessons learned, and common challenges of managing Fulbright exchange programs with one another, and look ahead to see where program improvements can be made.

Besides hearing EAP field perspectives, senior representatives from ECA also shared their views on Fulbright priorities and budget situation of the program in the coming years.



Highlights

Fulbright Regional Enrichment Conference in Malaysia

U.S. Scholars and Students gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in March 2018 for the 8th Fulbright Regional Enrichment Conference coordinated by Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange (MACEE). The conference on “Innovative and Resilient ASEAN Communities” featured lecture and research activities of Fulbright scholars and research students in the Asia Pacific region. 46 presentations by grantees from 10 countries impressed the participants with their diverse fields and in-depth expertise. The work of Fulbright grantees reflect U.S. commitment to the Asia-Pacific region. It also strengthens people-to-people engagement and edu-



Photo: Fulbright and other guests flank U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia Ms. Kamala Shirin Lakshdhir (2nd row, center, in purple) at a reception at the Ambassador's residence, March 15, 2018.



Do Thu Huong represented Fulbright Vietnam Team at the Seminar

cational ties with the ten member nations of ASEAN.

(Photos source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassyk/sets/72157692769526681/with/25962990257/>)

Mid-year Meeting with ETA hosts



Ms. Molly Stephenson led the discussion with 17 host representatives

On January 12, 2018, Fulbright Program in Vietnam organized a mid-year meeting in Ho Chi Minh City for representatives from 17 host institutions of the Fulbright Teaching Assistants AY 2017 - 2018. Led by Ms. Molly Stephenson, Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Hanoi, the meeting was a great opportunity not only for Fulbright Vietnam to understand more about the ideas and experiences shared by host representatives, but also for the host institutions to learn from one another. During the session, participants had open and effective discussion on many issues of mutual interest, including benefits and challenges of hosting a Fulbright ETA, the roles of an

ETA, as well as support from the host institution. Fulbright Vietnam also emphasized the importance of an open, three-sided communication between Fulbright Team, host institution, and the ETA in order to carry out a successful ETA program. In addition, all the host institutions' comments and recommendations were well received and discussed by the Fulbright Country Team. Finally yet importantly, all participants had a chance to meet and talk to Consul General Mary Tarnowka. Overall, the host representatives found the meeting very helpful and every one of them expressed their desire to have another ETA for the next academic year.

Teacher Training Workshop at Hoàng Văn Thụ Gifted High School

On January 24-26, 2018, Ms. Megan Kelly, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Hoàng Văn Thụ Gifted High School in Hòa Bình Province



participated in and supported the Teacher Training Workshop at her school for about 50 English teachers from around Hòa Bình Province. At the workshop, she gave presentations on methods for lesson planning, different speaking and warm-up activities, and a teaching demonstration. She and the workshop participants discussed challenges teach-

ers face when implementing these strategies and overall difficulties of teaching. She stated that “many teachers and I face similar chal-

lenges, such as motivating students and planning activities that they will be interested in.” After the workshops, the teachers were able to practice micro teaching incorporating some of the new activities

or methods, followed by another discussion to wrap up the conference. This was an incredible opportunity to share experiences and methods between teachers, and to generate ideas to create more engaging lessons for students.

Fulbright Specialist Program at the Institute of Public Health in Ho Chi Minh City

Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Pauline Jolly, Professor from School of Public Health, the University of Alabama at Birmingham in the U.S.

worked at the Department of Epidemiology, Institute of Public Health in Ho Chi Minh City (IPH) from March 10 to April 20, 2018. Dr.



Pauline Jolly supported the host institution to strengthen the capacity of IPH staffs and students on two fronts: writing research grant proposal and publications for international journals, and infectious diseases prevention and control. Dr. Pauline Jolly provided training for IPH staffs and students on epidemiological study designs, research proposal development, scientific writing and paper publication, and consulting technically for ongoing projects/programs. In addition, Dr. Pauline Jolly supported IPH seniors on developing institutional standardized guidelines for writing research proposal and publication. This project will open more opportunity for IPH to have collaboration with the specialist's home institution in the U.S.

2019 Vietnamese Student Program calling for application

The Program opened for AY2019 intake in early January 2018. Successful



candidates will pursue master's study programs in the United States starting fall 2019. Competition is open to all applicants who meet the following minimum criteria: hold single Vietnamese citizenship; have at least two years of work experience after graduation by the time of application; have a valid minimum TOEFL iBT score of 79 or IELTS 6.5.

The Program supports master's study programs in most fields of social sciences and humanities, including but not limited to American Studies, Communications, Education, Economics, Business, Law, International Relations, Journalism, Library Science, Public Administration, Social work, Public Health, Public Policy, TESOL, Gender and Women Studies, etc. Application deadline is May 15, 2018.

Fulbright Team in Vietnam have hosted several information sessions in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with support from Fulbright alumni finalists of the current cohort. Useful tips on how to prepare a competitive application, interview, studying and living in the U.S. were shared by the speakers, and well-received by the participants.



AY2018 Finalists sharing at the session



*ETA Caitlyn Nguyen hosted a session at her host school—
Nam Dinh Teacher Training College*

U.S. Scholars to Vietnam Spring Semester



Fredricka L. Stoller is a Fulbright Scholar (with a teaching and research grant) at the University of Foreign Languages, University of Da Nang, Spring 2018. Her permanent position is as Professor of English at Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, Arizona, USA), where

she teaches in the MA-TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) and Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics programs. She is co-author of *Teaching English to Second Language Learners in Academic Contexts: Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking* (2018, Routledge); *Teaching and Researching Reading* (2nd ed., 2011, Routledge); co-editor of *A Handbook for Language Program Administrators* (2nd ed., 2012, Alta English); and co-author of *Write Like a Chemist* (2008, Oxford University Press). She has published in *English for Specific Purposes*, *English Teaching Forum*, *Journal of English for Academic Purposes*, and *Reading in a Foreign Language*. Her professional areas of interest include second and foreign language reading, disciplinary writing, content-based instruction, and project-based approaches to the teaching and learning of languages. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Turkey (2002-2003) and a Fulbright Specialist in Timor Leste (2014). She has trained English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teachers and teacher trainers in 30 different countries.

Dr. Michelle J. McCollin is a tenured Associate Professor in the Special Education Department at Slippery Rock University of PA. She received her dual Bachelor of Science degree in African American Studies and International Relations from Syracuse University, NY; a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Long Island University, NY; with a second Master degree in School/District Supervision and Administration from Brooklyn College, NY; and was awarded her Doctorate (PhD) in Special Education with an emphasis on Mild Moderate Disabilities from Southern University and A and M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



In addition to her academic tenure at SRU, she adds to her extensive vitae a recently founded Non-Profit Organization/NGO - EYES4AFRICA Foundation, Inc. where to date she has collected, purchased, and distributed over 10,000 pairs of gently used/new prescription eyeglasses and readers; conducted hundreds of free vision clinics, and improved the vision of thousands of people all over Southwest Nigeria, West Africa, and the West Indies.

As a Spring 2018 Fulbright Scholar, Dr. McCollin arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam filled with great excitement, exuberance, and expectation to share her self-efficacious teaching praxis and unique pedagogical style with fellow colleagues and students in the Special Education Faculty at Hanoi National University of Education; and move the discussion and practice of inclusive education further along its continuum towards success for all children in Vietnam and beyond.

She believes.... *"I have to push against the boundaries of what would be, and move towards the center of what should be, in order to reach my purpose, my promise, my potential."*~

Bob and Karen Thaler are really a "Fulbright team" at the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) in Hanoi. While Bob, a Professor of Animal Science at South Dakota State University, is the "official" Fulbright scholar, his wife Karen works a lot with the Dept of Foreign Languages and the English program at VNUA. In South Dakota, Karen teaches 7th grade English at Mickelson Middle School, but at VNUA she helps teach several different English classes, works with the English Club, and shares her experiences in curriculum development and other topics with VNUA's faculty and administration. Also, she gives programs at the American Center in Hanoi, including one on the poetry of Langston Hughes during Black History month.



The Vietnamese swine industry is undergoing a structural change from backyard production to more modern systems, and Bob's Fulbright program focuses on helping it maintain environmental sustainability while improving production efficiencies. He gives technical seminars to the Animal Science faculty at VNUA, their graduate students, and to allied industry partners. Bob has also shared technical information with the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as they write the new agricultural laws for Vietnam, and serves as a reviewer for VNUA's *Vietnam Journal of Agricultural Sciences*.

Bob and Karen are loving their time in Vietnam, and especially appreciate the warmth and friendliness of its people. Vietnam is truly someplace very special.

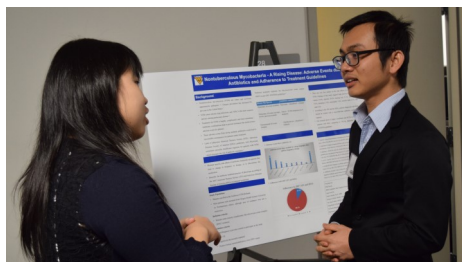
Huynh Tan Phat's Public Health Research Featured at Global Seminar

Fulbright Vietnamese Student Huynh Tan Phat's public health research was featured at the 2018 Fulbright Global Health Innovation Seminar in Atlanta, GA. Phat Huynh is pursuing a Master study program in Public Health (MPH), concentrated on Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, West Virginia University. He is from An Giang, a province in the Mekong Delta.

Phat Huynh submitted an abstract from his practice-based experience at Oregon Health and Science University during the summer of 2017. For his practicum, Huynh reviewed patients' antibiotic regimens and any side effects experienced during treatment. Huynh also evaluated the compliance of administering doctors with the 2007 American Thoracic Society guidelines.

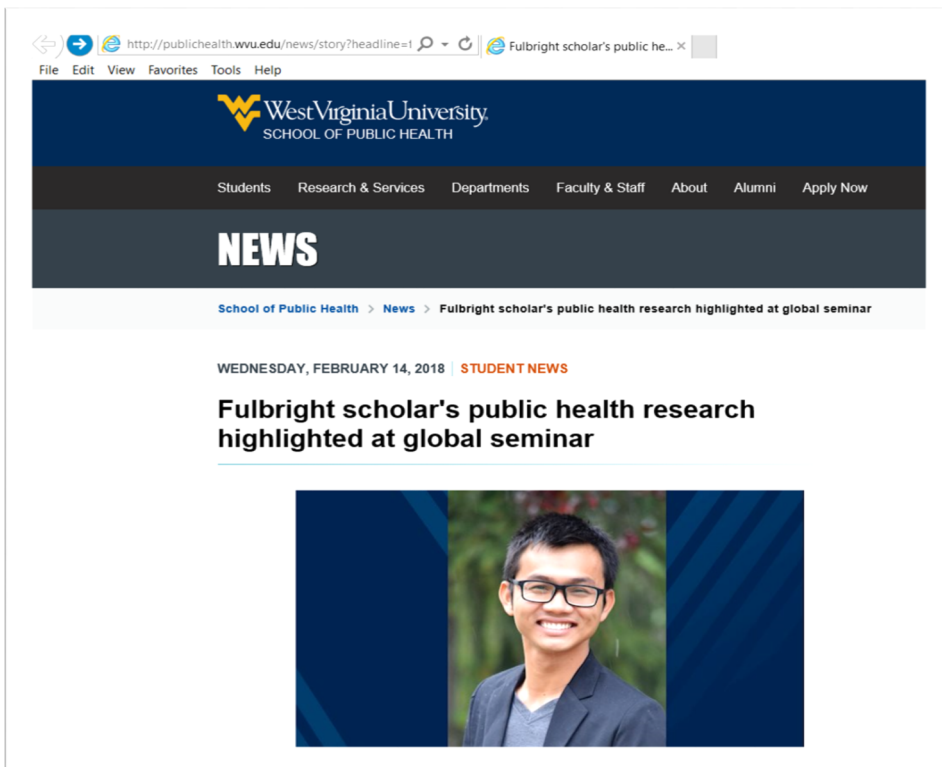
"I am very proud to be a part of this seminar," said Huynh. "It is a great opportunity to network and build friendships with Fulbright Scholars around the world."

"Being a Fulbright Scholar opens so many



doors for me in my professional life and personal life," said Huynh. "Fulbright helps me to reach a new high in my education (pursuing a master's degree in the U.S.) and change my perceptions of the world in so many positive ways. I have made so many amazing friends and unforgettable memories since the summer of 2016."

Before the start of his journey with Fulbright, Huynh finished his Pharmacy Degree in Vietnam. According to Huynh, he was "inspired by two WVU professors who lead study abroad programs to Vietnam." These professors were [Dr. Susan Newfield](#) from the [WVU School of Nursing](#), and [Dr. Neal Newfield](#) from the [WVU School of](#)



[Social Work](#). Both encouraged him to apply for Fulbright and to go to WVU specifically.

Now in his second year and final semester at the [WVU School of Public Health](#), Huynh's Fulbright journey is nearing its end.

"Fulbright has been 'spoiling' me for two years of not working and having studying as my main and only task," said Huynh, gratefully. "However, I am ready to write a new chapter of my life as a Fulbright alumnus."

Articles and photo credits: Phat Huynh and WVU's website.

<https://graduateeducation.wvu.edu/current-students/graduate-and-professional-student-online-magazine/feature-stories/phet-huynh>

<http://publichealth.wvu.edu/news/story?headline=fulbright-scholar-s-public-health-research-highlighted-at-global-seminar>



Phat Huynh and Tam Nguyen met at the Seminar



Vlogger & Fulbrighter: Being A Bridge

By Van Tran Possible, Fulbright Vietnamese Student AY 2017

I grew up living with my grandparents whose patriotism and dedication to community service inspired me profoundly. As a teenager, I wanted to become a diplomat traveling the world and tell the



story of Vietnam. I later became a freshman at International Relations department of USSH Ho Chi Minh city to realize this dream.

During college, I engaged in every extracurricular activity. I had watched English music videos and shows since a very young age so English became natural to me. With the advantage of language and the perseverance to join every selection (with many failures), I soon became “the face” of the Vietnamese student delegation sent abroad.

I never forgot two things from these trips: how impressive folks from other countries were and my excitement coming back from those trips. I proposed a sharing session where I would use a blackboard and a projector to discuss what I learned with my classmates. I also created and directed shows and plays for my faculty on special occasions. In all of my work, humor has always played a big role. It was obvious that I steered towards entertainment rather than politics. Maybe I chose a wrong major?

After graduating from college, I started to work professionally, but on the side, I

continued to participate in community projects like World Economic Forum Global Shapers, 350 movement on Climate Change, etc. I traveled, met amazing people and had eye-opening conversations. Working briefly as a youth instructor, I also realized the “missing pieces” for a young Vietnamese person were mentorship, inspiration and connection to the world. And more than anyone, growing up from these trips, I understood how stories and ideas could enormously empower young minds. I had been one a while ago - it was the time to give back. In 2015, my youtube channel “Vân Possible - Vanlog” was launched to carry out this mission.

But it should not be just another conventional knowledge sharing channel - the model that failed to captivate the young audience. With a little observation, I realized Vietnamese love comedy but we mostly had quick laughs without lasting impact. There it goes - my channel would feature serious topics with a humorous touch. Each episode is a smoothie that blends information and entertainment. Just like that, I presented various topics from personal development to hot news to



interviews with the ones who “made it”.

My channel now is 3 years old and I am proud that it seems helpful. The most common feedback from my viewers is that my videos exude optimism and upbeat positivity.

I receive thank-you emails and messages from parents, professionals and college students. They watch my videos to get inspired, to laugh or sometimes to think

twice before suicidal thoughts. I have a humble followership of 24,000 youtube viewers that grows organically and keeps in touch with me. Listening to them gives me more ideas about what they need so that my content can be more relevant and helpful.



“Women in Mainstream Media” Conference

Since 2017, I have been a Fulbright student pursuing my Media Studies postgraduate degree at The New School in New York, USA. The last 8 months have been filled with inspiration and new knowledge. I am learning how to produce content and make it relevant and consumable. I hope to come back and continue to create content - maybe a bigger, more professional “edutainment” show which is written, produced and hosted by me.

Last week, I spoke about my youtube channel at United Nation conference - Women in Mainstream Media. It was a humble yet proud experience. My presentation opening page was the title “Being a Bridge” and a Vietnam flag next to it. I consider myself as “a bridge” - I was lucky to see the world and become more competent, now I’d like to transfer something meaningful back to the S-shaped land and introduce its beauty to others.

Life has its funny way to work things out. I never became a conventional diplomat as my childhood dream but somehow as a Fulbright cultural ambassador and as a content creator, I am now connecting my Vietnam to the world.

www.youtube.com/vanxinhtuoi

“One Year Later, What I Miss Most about Vietnam”

By Tim Flanagan, Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Awardee at Hanoi University of Education, AY 2016

“Is it safe?” This is one of the most common questions I receive regarding my Fulbright experience in Vietnam. The question still comes, even nine months after returning home. Americans are obsessed with safety. Yes, it is safe. The world, I discovered, is a lot safer than most of us think. I know so many people in the US who live in fear. I can understand why. We are bombarded with news of violence, listen to our politicians stoke fear of those who are different from us, and fall into the trap of believing that the world beyond our borders is filled with people and situations that are unsafe. It’s safer to stay home, we think.

Since arriving home after a year abroad, I have woken to news of mass shootings at a concert and a church. I have been trained in new lockdown procedures in the wake of the most recent school shootings. I have listened to students strategize over the safest place in line to stand when the fire alarm rings and we exit the building, wondering what danger might be lurking in the hallways.

When I think of where I was a year ago, I am reminded of how safe I felt in Vietnam. There was never a time in Hanoi that I felt unsafe, except perhaps for that first month

of learning how to cross the street Vietnamese style. Once I mastered that, though, I even felt safe darting into several lanes of motorbikes, buses, bicycles and cars.

In Vietnam, I experienced a country that is not only safe, but filled with people eager to know Americans. My first few nights in Hanoi were spent in a typical narrow multi-story Vietnamese home of a family I met through Airbnb. They taught me how to eat phở and gave me a tour of their neighborhood. The father spoke of fighting against the Americans during the war while serving me his best tea in the evenings. They even left me in charge of the house when the family traveled on an overnight trip.

During my Fulbright project, I got to know my students at Nguyễn Tất Thành School and Đại học Sư phạm through poetry and felt at home at both schools, always being greeted by students, colleagues and strangers as I crossed the campus.

In cafes and on the streets of Hanoi, I was not only asked my age and marital status, but invited to join strangers for meals. While traveling on trains and motorbiking through mountain villages, the local people smiled and invited me for tea (and sometime rice wine).

This became my normal life in Vietnam, being welcomed by strangers, never feeling threatened, and taking time for conversation. I was safe.

Back in the US, I have had to readapt to a culture that is suspicious of strangers and



always in a hurry. I do not live in fear of a school shooting, but have accepted the reality of preparing for one just in case. I try to teach others to not live in fear of people from other places. And I’ve learned once again to wait for the traffic to stop before crossing the street.

More articles by Tim Flanagan can be read at his page <http://tflanagan.us/yearabroad/>.

Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Award: Open Doors for New Collaboration

By Nga D Tran, Huu Nghi School

May 2017: An email sent from the Fulbright Program informed us that our application for The Fulbright Distinguished Teaching Award Short-term Program had been granted. The Fulbrighter, Ms. Elizabeth Zahn from Columbus Primary School in New York city, would arrive in July. The whole school was excited about the news.

Huu Nghi School is a new school located in Haiphong city. At Huu Nghi School, we try to provide students with the best learning opportunities to develop much-needed 21st century skills such as problem-solving skills and team-work skills, and an interest in science. However, we are not happy with the current curriculum in science, and we want to change the way Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are taught at

our school. We want to see our students engaged by science and mathematics from



the beginning of their education. Therefore, having a Fulbright Distinguished Teacher majored in teaching STEM would be of much needed help.

We couldn’t be happier with what Ms. Zahn

did for us. During her stay at Huu Nghi School, she has provided a number of professional developments for our teachers, such as how to engage students. She delivered demo-lessons and ran mini-workshops for our teachers. Besides, she was the speaker for a well-attended parent workshop entitled “Supporting self study”.

The educational collaboration between Ms. Zahn and Huu Nghi School did not end when she left Vietnam. We continued our collaboration with Sister School STEM program. This is a program where students from both schools, Huu Nghi School and Columbus Elementary School in New York, shared their work, and where teachers from two schools used engineering design process to get students familiar with science and make them interested in science.

“Hospitality brought me to Fulbright”

Dr. Tran Thi Ngoc Lien, Fulbright Vietnamese scholar AY 2017-2018

Three months ago, I came to the U.S. for the first time and just within the first week being here I was totally convinced that my



time in the U.S. as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar would be the most beautiful and valuable experience that I've ever had. I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to stay and work at the School of Hospitality Business, Michigan State University. I would say I have been extremely fortunate to have the strong support from the Dean and from all the colleagues here. Especially, I have my own office and convenient facilities

at work that help me a lot in doing my research in the U.S.

As a lecturer at the School of Hospitality and Tourism, Hue University I have been teaching and conducting researches in the field of tourism for more than 15 years in Viet Nam. Recognizing a critical need for change in the hospitality curriculum development at my home university, I wished to have a chance to gain further insights into the American experience in developing outcome-based curricula and to find the most effective models for my home university. That research interest has brought me to Fulbright and to my host university in the U.S., where I found that their programs in hospitality are absolutely excellent and match well to my research objectives. Everyday I work through the documents, discuss with my colleagues who are in charge of the program development, and participate in some classes in the hope that I can deeply understand the education programs at my host school and how they are delivered to the students. In the meantime, I am doing some questionnaire surveys among hospitality students related to their internship and mentorship – an important part of every hospitality program. Fulbright has given me not only the opportunity to do the work that I love, but also the chance to discover plenty

of wonderful destinations with amazing different cultures in the U.S.



Luckily, I am accompanied by my family to the U.S., which I think is the best decision ever in my life. We all enjoy our new life in Michigan and try to visit as many new places as possible. And what excites me a lot is that my kids seem to have fallen in love with their schooling and their new environment here. It is no doubt that this opportunity is changing my life in a unique way and I am forever grateful for the Fulbright.

Dr. Michelle McCollin Spoke at “Autism in ASEAN” Workshop

American Fulbright Scholar Dr. Michelle McCollin attended MOLISA and VFD joint workshop on “Autism in ASEAN - Developing laws and policies on detection, intervention, and caring for autistic children in the community,” on March 31.

At the seminar, speakers discussed the current difficulties of families with autistic children and proposed specific solutions and experiences to implement early detection, intervention and care for autistic children in the community. Experts from ASEAN countries also shared their experiences in providing community integration support for autistic people.

Dr. Michelle McCollin said *“In the U.S., we have policies to support the family having children with autism to help them integrate in the society. I think it's time Vietnam put autism into the Law of the Disabled so the children can benefit from early intervention. Without early intervention, children with autism cannot immerse in the community.”*



Photo credit: <http://www.motthegioi.vn/thoi-su-c-66/xa-hoi-c-94/tre-tu-ky-van-dung-ben-le-chinh-sach-cho-nguoi-khuyet-tat-85067.html>

Alumni Corner

ETA Lucas Rivers Received Alumni Achievement Award

Congratulations to former ETA Lucas Rivers on receiving the 2018 Alumni Achievement Award from RTW



and [Institute of International Education \(IIE\)](#) at RTW's Annual Benefit! Lucas is a 2015 graduate of Union College, earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Chinese Language. In 2013, he was a recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, using the award to study abroad in Shanghai, China. From 2015 to 2016, he served as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Hà Tĩnh Gifted High School.

Luong Nguyen An Dien's New Book Launched in March

Borrowing the title "You Will Never Be Famous - And That's OK" from Emily Esfahani Smith of The New York Times, Luong Nguyen An Dien published his first book "Không nổi tiếng cũng đâu có sao".



Today's college students desperately want to change the world, but too many think that living a meaningful life requires doing something extraordinary and attention-grabbing like becoming an Instagram celebrity, starting a wildly successful company or ending a humanitarian crisis. In this 92-page book, Luong Nguyen An Dien walks readers through the most meaningful lives — not the extraordinary ones — but the ordinary ones lived with dignity. His book launch events in Ho Chi Minh City in late March and Hanoi early April attracted hundreds of participants.

Luong Nguyen An Dien is now working for Zing.vn as a freelance investigative journalist covering politics, inequality and globalization, and teaching at RMIT University in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Before that, he served as a reporter and deputy editor for the English-language edition of Thanh Nien newspaper, a major



daily in Vietnam, for six years.

Luong Nguyen An Dien holds a master's degree from Columbia Journalism School in New York. His work has appeared in the Guardian, Al Jazeera, the Diplomat, YaleGlobal, Asia Sentinel and other publications.

Fulbright Scholar Cynthia Wiseman revisited Vietnam

In February 2018, former 2015 Fulbright Scholar Vietnam Cynthia S. Wiseman, EdD, was welcomed back to Pham Van Dong University (PDU) at a lovely reception in Quang Ngai arranged through the Department of International Cooperation at PDU. Dr. Wiseman was warmly received by University Vice Rectors Mr. Tran Dinh Tham, Mr. Chau Van Luong, and Ms. Tran Thi Mai Dao. Also attending the meeting were Mr. Tran Huu Ca, Dean of the Foreign Language Department and Mr. Nguyen Tu Nhi, Vice Dean of the Foreign Language Department as well as students from the Department of Foreign Languages.

Dr. Wiseman also visited a class and met with faculty and English language students who welcomed her with an outstand-



ing performance of a song in English.

Dr. Wiseman served as a research scholar/lecturer at Pham Van Dong University in spring 2015 in the Department of For-

eign Languages, during which time she worked with professors of English, in-service teachers, and English majors in the department. Dr. Wiseman was moved by the emotional reunion with old friends, "My experience teaching in Vietnam and working with Ms. Mai Dao and all these wonderful teachers and students was a life-changing experience. I am so grateful to Pham Van Dong and to Fulbright for that experience."

The professional and personal relationships between PDU and Dr. Wiseman and the educational and cultural exchanges realized through this Fulbright experience speaks volumes to the value of Fulbright Vietnam.



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